

# Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

(219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey

Office Manager: Leslie Allen



*Katydid*



## Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Jenna Saltanovitz

Sam Hayes

**August Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. However, children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

## Monday, July 26

**10am Animal Adaptations.** Do you have what it takes to survive the wild? Find out what animals use to survive the dunes at the Nature Center. Join us! SH

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

**4pm Sand Art!** Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for some sand art fun. Explore sand from around the world, and make your own sand art craft to take home! Great fun for the kids! SH

## Tuesday, July 27

**10am Indiana Dunes' Rocks!** Meet at the Nature Center and check out the forces that built The Dunes. It should be some real fossil fun!

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. BB

**8pm Owl Prowl!** Swoop to the Nature Center Parking Lot for an evening discovery, in search for our resident owls of the dunes. We'll enjoy a gentle stroll towards the Wilson Shelter. We'll be back within an hour. Bring flashlights for the walk back to the campsite. Children under 12, please bring a parent. BB

## Wednesday July 28

**10am To the Beaver Lodge and Back!** Meet the naturalist for a 45 minute easy stroll as we take you to the mammoth beaver lodge at the dunes! Check out what the beavers are up to this fine day! Meet at the Nature Center. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. SH

**3pm Scales And Tales.** Meet some of the resident reptiles up close, as well as the stories behind them during this 45 minute program at the Nature Center. SH

## Thursday, July 29

**10am Mt. Tom Bound!** Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center. SH

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. DG

**4pm Summer Stargazing!** Visit the (air-conditioned) Nature Center this afternoon for a day-time look at the summer night sky. Using Google Earth technology we'll explore the night sky on the auditorium wall. Guaranteed no clouds! Join us in the Nature Center auditorium. DG

## **Friday, July 30**

**10am Dune Lion Hunt!** Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a lion hunt of sorts! We'll be hiking into the high dunes in search of the elusive ant lion. Join us! DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. DG

**4pm Sounds of Nature Jeopardy** Join us in the Nature Center Auditorium for some animal sound fun. Prizes for those that know their sounds! DG

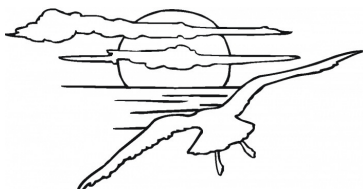
## **Saturday, July 31**

**10am Dunes in Four Seasons.** Relax in the (air-conditioned!) Nature Center Auditorium for a 45-minute slide show tour of the Dunes State Park through the four seasons. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. BB

**2pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalists by the beach pavilion this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG

**7:30pm Sunset Climb.** Finish off a great day in the dunes with a hike to view the greatest sunset in Indiana, on top of the highest sand dune... Mt. Tom. We'll meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for a moderate walk up trail 4. Join us for a spectacular view. DG



## **Sunday, August 1**

**8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.**

**10am Techno-Scavenger Hunt.** Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno twist! We'll explore the use of GPS and geocaching, while learning to find your own geocache. Meet outside the Nature Center. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. BB

**3pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.** Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks. Join us!

## **Monday, August 2**

**10am One Hummer of a Bird!** Meet the Park Interpreter in the Nature Center Auditorium for an up-close look at these amazing tiny birds! We'll test your hummer IQ, then we'll walk outside to see how close we can get them to come to us. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. BB

**4pm Mapping the Dunes Through Time.** Using new technology, join us in the Nature Center Auditorium and explore how the dunes have changed as we overlay historical maps for a comparison to what we see today. Great program for the history buffs. DG

## **Tuesday, August 3**

**Dunes Nature Summer Camp Tuesday-Thursday this week! Call the Nature Center for more info or to sign up!**

**10:30am Dunes Geology!** Meet at the Nature Center and check out the forces that built The Dunes. It should be some real fossil fun!

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. BB

**4pm Scatology...** is the study of what!? Gather in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at what nature leaves behind! Prizes for those that know their poop! BB

## **Wednesday, August 4**

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. BB

**3pm Tracking up a T-shirt!** Bring a white t-shirt to the Nature Center Program Area this afternoon! We'll turn it into a field guide of animal tracks that you can take home this week! Cheap shirts can be bought locally (K-mart) if you don't have one with you. BB

## **Thursday, August 5**

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. BB

**3pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.** Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks. Join us!

## **Friday, August 6**

**10am Wetland Discovery.** Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. JS

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. JS

**3pm Nature Lore and Tall Tales.** Bring your imagination this afternoon to the Nature Center Front Deck for some stories for the young and old. Learn some of the tall tales of the dunes before you hit the beach. Bring the kids! JS

## **Saturday, August 7**

**10am Jaunt to Mt. Jackson.** Explore the high dunes of Trail 8 this morning as we trek to the third highest dune in Indiana. We'll stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Meet at the Nature Center. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. DG

**3pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalist by the beach pavilion this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! JS

**8pm Campfire Stories on the Beach!** Finish off a great day in the dunes with some fun around the campfire. Meet the Naturalist at the main beach, by the pavilion, for an evening of storytelling. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Total time about 45 minutes. In case of inclement weather, we'll be at the Campground Shelter. JS

## **Sunday, August 8**

**8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.**

**10am Dunes History Hike.** Meet at the Campground Shelter for a history jaunt to Mt. Tom. We'll explore both the fascinating and haunting stories that make up the dunes. Join us! JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, July 26, for more details. DG

**3pm Sunshine Necklaces!** Meet at the Nature Center Front Deck for a make-it and take-it craft before you leave! We'll explore the sun's effects on the land and make a special UV bead necklace you can take home with you. Great fun for the kids! DG



## **Monday, August 9**

**10am Rattlesnake Ramble.** Meet David outside the Nature Center for a short, 45-minute stroll in search of the snakes that call our wetland habitat home. We'll even talk about our only endangered rattlesnake in the dunes. Join us! DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

**3pm Turtle Time!** Scoot your carapaces into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! JS

## **Tuesday, August 10**

**10am To the Blowout and Back.** Beach House Blowout is a beautiful sight to see in the morning. Join the Naturalist for a one hour trek to this awe inspiring view. Meet at the Nature Center. JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. BB

**3pm Compass Fun!** Get lost this afternoon with the Naturalist. Meet at the Nature Center for a look at basic compass orienteering, and then get a chance to try for yourselves. DG

## **Wednesday August 11**

**10am A Dog Day Hike.** Meet at the Campground Gate for a morning stroll with your pooch. Bring your dog (on a leash of course) and join us for an hour stroll through the dune woodlands. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. JS

**3pm Reptile Review!** Join the naturalist at the Nature Center for a fun look at the reptiles of the Indiana Dunes! Great program, especially if you are uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us! SH

## **Thursday, August 12**

**10am Shipwreck Stories!** What mysteries lie beneath our beach? Check out the Indiana Dunes shipwreck stories at the Nature Center Auditorium this morning. Total time about 45 minutes. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. DG

**4pm Dune Jeopardy!** Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. DG/SH

## **Friday, August 13**

**10am Tour De Dunes.** Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. DG

**3pm Behind the Scenes of the Dunes NC.** Ever wonder what's behind that door? Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at unveiling the mystique behind the Nature Center. We'll look at hidden displays and give a behind the scenes tour afterwards. SH

**7:30pm Campground Crafts!** Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! SH

## **Saturday, August 14**

**10am Dune Hiking!** Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Campground Shelter. SH

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. BB

**4pm Summer Stargazing!** Visit the (air-conditioned) Nature Center this afternoon for a day-time look at the summer night sky. Using Google Earth technology we'll explore the night sky on the auditorium wall. Guaranteed no clouds! Join us in the Nature Center auditorium. BB

**8:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Perseid Meteor Stargaze!** Join us for our annual shooting star event! Tonight marks the near peak of the Persied Meteor show. Up to 60 shooting stars an hour can be seen. We'll have special constellation talks and sky storytelling going on throughout the evening. Bring a lawnchair or blanket and join us at the Tremont Shelter Picnic Area (parking at Duneside Shelter). Join us!



## **Sunday, August 15**

**8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.**

**10am Techno-Scavenger Hunt.** Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno twist! We'll explore the use of GPS and geocaching, while learning to find your own geocache. Meet outside the Nature Center. Prizes for the kids! Join us! DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. BB

**3pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalist by the beach pavilion this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG

## **Monday, August 16**

**9:30am Late Summer Birds.** Meet the Park Interpreter at the Nature Center for an easy stroll in search of the dune birds that are already preparing for their fall migration. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. BB

**3pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.** Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks.

## **Tuesday, August 17**

**10am Dunes Geology!** Meet at the Nature Center and check out the forces that built The Dunes. It should be some real fossil fun!

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. BB

**3pm Campground Critters!** Explore the campground wildlife that roams while you're asleep! We'll have live animals and furs for you to check out at the Campground Shelter (by site 113). Join us! JS

## **Wednesday, August 18**

**10am Wetland Discovery.** Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. JS

**3pm Critter Feeding Time!** Scoot on over to the Nature Center Auditorium for some critter feeding fun! Learn what some of the Nature Center animals eat and maybe even get to feed some yourself! JS

### **Thursday, August 19**

**10am Stories on the Ground.** See how many stories you can piece together during this 30 minute short hike from the nature center. We'll explore for scat, tracks, and other animal signs! JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. DG

**3pm Worms Ate my Lunch!** Come feed our worms lunch this morning, as David shows off vermicomposting and other ways you can green your life! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. DG

### **Friday, August 20**

**A Dam Good Hike.** What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. JS

**3pm Nature Lore and Tall Tales.** Bring your imagination this afternoon to the Nature Center Front Deck for some stories for the young and old. Learn some of the tall tales of the dunes before you hit the beach. Bring the kids! JS

**7:30pm Who Pooped in the Park!** Join us at the Campground Shelter this evening for 45-minutes of fun as we explore the facts on feces and the data on dung. Test your scat knowledge for prizes! Don't be a pooper, join us! BB

### **Saturday, August 21**

**10am Woodland Wander.** Bundle up and join the Naturalist for a winter stroll into the Duneland woods. We'll explore how life goes on in this winter beauty. Join us for this hour hike at the Nature Center. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 9, for more details. BB

**3pm Naturalist Beach Break!** Watch for the naturalist by the beach pavilion this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! BB/JS

**7:30pm Campfire Tonight!** What better way to end a fun day at the dunes than around a campfire! Meet the Naturalists at the Campground Shelter for a fun night of stories, games, and song! Bring marshmallows for roasting afterwards. Parking available at the camp gate for those coming from town. Join us for a great hour of fun!

### **Sunday, August 22**

**8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.**

**10am Snakes Alive!** Slither to the Nature Center Front Deck for a fun look at the snakes of Indiana Dunes. Join us! JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, June 28, for more details. DG

**3pm Sand Art!** It's a make it, take it program! Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for a look at our special sand, before making a cool craft you can take home this weekend! DG

### **Monday, August 23**

**10am A Dog Day Hike.** Meet at the Campground Gate for a morning stroll with your pooch. Bring your dog (on a leash of course) and join us for an hour stroll through the dune woodlands. JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

**3pm Scales and Tales.** Meet some of the resident reptiles up close, as well as the stories behind them during this 45 minute program at the Nature Center. JS

### **Tuesday, August 24**

**10am A Woodland Wander.** Let's explore the back dunes forest this morning. Meet at the Nature Center for an easy, 45-minute stroll to Wilson Shelter and back. We'll explore the sights and sounds of the forest and swamp. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. BB

**4pm Nature Center Crafts!** Come visit the Nature Center Front Deck for an afternoon of craft fun. We'll be doing a make-it, take-it craft that you can take back to the campsite or home. Join us! JS

**7pm Image Makers Nature Photo Club.** Image Makers is an informal nature photo club that meets once a month at the Nature Center. Bring your favorite photo to share or just enjoy photos from other nature photo enthusiasts. Join us!

### **Wednesday August 25**

**10am Silent Forests on the First Day of School!** Its official, our local kids are back in school. Enjoy a peaceful stroll through the dunes woodlands this morning. We'll stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Meet outside the Nature Center. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. JS

**3pm Leave it to Beaver.** Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to investigate the dune beaver family. We'll hike out to their "gigantic" lodge and check out some recent activity. Bring the family! JS

### **Thursday, August 26**

**10am Dune Hiking!** Explore the high dunes this morning. We'll meet at the Nature Center and head for some of the highest sand dunes in Indiana. Come for outstanding views! Join us! DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. DG

**3pm Dune Jeopardy!** Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. DG

### **Friday, August 27**

**10am Dunes Creek Restoration Tour.** Meet the Interpreter at the Campground Gate for a special tour of the construction going on this summer at the beach. We'll investigate the "daylighting" going on. BB

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. BB

**3pm Behind the Scenes of the Dunes NC.** Ever wonder what's behind that door? Join the naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at unveiling the mystique behind the Nature Center. We'll look at hidden displays and give a behind the scenes tour afterwards. DG

**7:30pm Flying Squirrel Stoll!** Fly to the Nature Center to discover the sounds of night. We will take a 45 minute stroll into the woods in search of our flying friends. Children 12 and under make sure to bring your parents. DG

### **Saturday, August 28**

**10am Tour De Dunes.** Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. BB

**4pm Snakes Alive** Visit the Nature Center this afternoon for peak at the snakes that live in the dunes. A good program, especially if you are uncomfortable around these reptiles. Slither on in and join us! JS

**7:30pm Who Pooped in the Park?!** Join us at the Campground Shelter this evening for 45-minutes of fun as we explore the facts on feces and the data on dung. Test your scat knowledge for prizes! Don't be a pooper, join us! BB

### **Sunday, August 29**

**8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.**

**10am Techno-Scavenger Hunt.** Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno twist! We'll explore the use of GPS and geocaching, while learning to find your own geocache. Meet outside the Nature Center. Prizes for the kids! Join us! DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. JS

**3pm Dune Detectives.** Want to solve natural mysteries? We'll get you started during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center. JS

### **Monday, August 30**

**9:30am Late Summer Birds.** Meet the Park Interpreter at the Campground Gate for an easy stroll in search of the dune birds that are already preparing for their fall migration. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. BB

### **Tuesday, August 31**

**10am Dunes Geology!** Meet at the Nature Center and check out the forces that built The Dunes. It should be some real fossil fun!

**1pm Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. BB

## Wednesday, September 1

**10am Wetland Discovery.** Enjoy a morning discovery in the dune wetlands. We'll explore the plants and animals that call this place home. Meet outside the Nature Center. JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. JS

## Thursday, September 2

**10am Worms Ate my Lunch!** Come feed our worms lunch this morning, as David shows off vermicomposting and other ways you can green your life! Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. DG

**3pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks.** Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks.

## Friday, September 3

**10am Creek Side Stroll!** Join the Naturalist at the Wilson Shelter for a 45 minute walk along the Dunes Creek. We will search for frogs, toads, and Salamanders. Fun for kids of all ages. DG

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. DG

**3pm Nature Lore and Tall Tales.** Bring your imagination this afternoon to the Nature Center Front Deck for some stories for the young and old. Learn some of the tall tales of the dunes. Bring the kids! JS

**7pm Labor Day Weekend Crafts!** Send the kids over after checking in for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite this holiday weekend. It's sure to be a fun time! JS

## Saturday, September 4

**10am Dune Climbing!** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for this 1-hour rugged hike to the top of Mt. Jackson, the third highest point in the park. JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. BB

**4pm Games Gone Wild!** Come to the Nature Center Program Area for some fun with nature! Leave your video games at home, and play some enjoyable outdoor games. Great fun for the kids! JS

**6:30pm Beautiful Blowout!** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for this 1-hour moderate hike to see one of the most beautiful sunsets in the Midwest from way atop Beach House Blowout. We'll also explore the twilight time for our nocturnal animals on the walk back. DG

## Sunday, September 5

**8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.**

**10am Snakes Alive!** Slither to the Nature Center Front Deck for a fun look at the snakes of Indiana Dunes. Join us! JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. BB

**4pm A Tragedy at the Beach!** Gather in the Nature Auditorium for this interactive program exploring the dunes tragedy of the JD Marshall shipwreck. Great program for the entire family! BB

**7pm Campfire Tonight!** What better way to end a fun day at the dunes than around a campfire! Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a fun night of stories, games, and song! Bring marshmallows for roasting afterwards. Parking available at the camp gate for those coming from town. Join us for a great hour of fun! BB

## Monday, September 6

### *Happy Labor Day!*

**10am Digital Camera Scavenger Hunt!** Go on an adventure this morning, as you try to seek out the park's hidden gems. You'll need a digital camera to play. Prizes for everyone! JS

**11am Hoosier Quest Pin Program.** See, Monday, August 23, for more details. DG

**3pm Labor Day Crafts** It's a make it, take it program! Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for a special nature project to remember your Labor Day visit to Indiana Dunes State Park. Bring the kids before you pack up and head home! DG